

Fall 2020

*News and events for
Proprietors, Subscribers & Friends
of the Portsmouth Athenæum*

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Portsmouth Athenæum

NEWSLETTER

C O N T E N T S

The Common Reader Book Group	2
The Joy of Docs	3
Arcana: John Langdon Elwyn	4
Welcome to the Athenæum	5
Share Your Creative Work	6
In Memoriam & Research Librarians	7
Unrest in the Post Office!	8
Member Milestones	9
Virtual Events: Fall-Winter	11

PUTTING TOGETHER THE PUZZLE OF PHOTOGRAPHER DOUGLAS ARMSDEN

SHERRY WOOD



Douglas Armsden (1918-2009), a prolific professional photographer, at work in his in-home studio at Kittery, Maine, c. 1940s. From the Portsmouth Athenæum's Armsden collection.

Since 2018, the Portsmouth Athenæum's photographic collections have more than doubled, thanks to donations of the work of Douglas Armsden by his daughters.

Staff, Proprietors and volunteers are involved in an intense cataloging and curatorial effort to maximize access to the collection of more than 25,000 images.

Proprietor Bob Chase spends most Saturdays giving what he calls a "first go-through" of some of the prints and negatives.

"I'm accused of having a photographic memory of things, places and people," Chase said. "That may be somewhat true, but the basic asset is that I'm old and have been around this area a long time."

Chase has helped pinpoint people and places in the images, and estimates 30% to 40% of the collection was identified by Armsden (1918-2009), a prolific professional photographer who lived and worked in Kittery and Kittery Point, Maine.

"Our goal is to try to fill in the percentage of facts that we don't know," Chase said.

Proprietor James Shanley has separated out 5 x 7 and 4 x 5 negatives as well as smaller-sized negatives for a total of 55 archival boxes or roughly 7,000 images. Athenæum Photographic Collections Manager James Smith said each negative takes three to five minutes to digitize at high resolution.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

ATHENAEUM FICTION BOOK GROUP: *The Common Reader*

DON MARGESON

The Portsmouth Athenaeum has a number of members' groups that meet (or used-to-and-someday-will-again meet) regularly on its premises. Most are committees designated by the board to govern and oversee activities that keep the organization going or further its mission.

One such member group, however, convenes with an agenda that doesn't directly concern the institution itself, although it does involve "facilitating convivial interchange and intellectual discourse," which the Athenaeum mission statement identifies as activities that the organization exists to promote. That group is the Common Reader, a fiction book group.

Portsmouth Athenaeum Newsletter is published three times yearly. Deadlines for articles are March 1, June 15 and October 1.

Contributions and queries may be directed to Publications Committee Chair/Editor Sherry Wood at sixswords@aol.com.

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Available records indicate that the Common Reader (CR) began life in the Fall of 2006; it may of course have had antecedents. It's a pleasure to note that Ellie and Dave Sanderson and Barbara Renner, CR founding members, remain active in the group. CR meets in the Research Library at 11 a.m. on the first Monday of each month, omitting July and August, to discuss a single novel.

Since the advent of the pandemic, CR has been meeting via Zoom. It isn't as cheery as meeting in person, but members have adapted and the discussions have been successful.

A book is chosen at least a month in advance of the meeting at which it will be discussed when a member proposes it at a meeting and those present at that time agree to it. No rules restrict CR's choice of books to read, except that all must be works of fiction.

However, a practical guideline for choices, offered recently by a current member, captures the group's goal of reading "quality" fiction that offers a promising basis for discussion: "Avoid choosing books for the group that one can as well read on one's own."

Novels published since 2000 predominate among the choices, but each year the group also reads one or more works from previous centuries that are still read today. A partial list of the books CR read during its 2019-20 season suggests the range of the group's reading:

We Are Taking Only What We Need (2011), Stephanie Powell Watts' debut

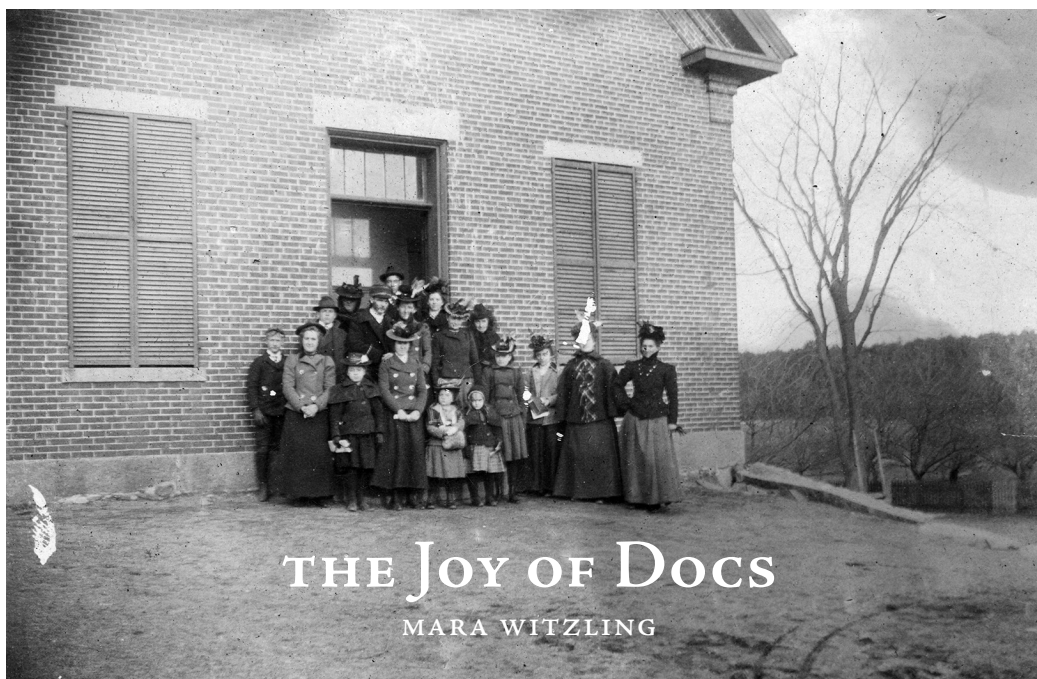
story collection, portrays working class Blacks in the contemporary South and the ties and gulfs between family members within and across generations; *The Children's Book* (2009), A.S. Byatt's extended tale of five English families interacting over the course of the years 1895-1919, depicts the cultural, aesthetic and political movements of that time, and also the dark impact that egotistical parents—however intelligent, creative and loving—can have on their children;

Mountolive (1958) is Lawrence Durrell's story about a British Foreign Office diplomat in Egypt whose sophistication and training do not save him from disaster on his posting there during the interwar era;

March (2006), by Geraldine Brooks, imagines the Civil War experience of the husband and father who is mentioned (but little present in person) in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*;

Manhattan Beach (2007) is Jennifer Egan's intricate novel about Eddie Kerrigan of Brooklyn, who leaves his job as a bagman for a corrupt union boss to be operations overseer of a mobster's nightclubs until he disappears one day, and also about his daughter Anna, who becomes an under-sea diver at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and persuades the mobster to help her dive in search of her father's body.

Anyone interested in reading with the Common Reader and joining its discussions, or curious to find out more about the group, is welcome to contact the author of this article at donaldsmargeson@gmail.com



THE JOY OF DOCS

MARA WITZLING

Pictured here is the Gravelly Ridge School, built in 1853 on what is now Woodbury Avenue. It was once the site of the School House Restaurant. Portsmouth Athenaeum image

Most people are able to enter the magical world of a vintage photograph. Who are these people wearing odd hats, hairdos, boots, and clothes? Where is this place, oddly familiar yet different from the world we inhabit?

For me, historical documents also have that evocative effect. During my professional life as an art historian I have spent many hours engaged in primary research, i.e. consulting materials written and created during the period or by the person being studied.

This summer I experienced the same thrill while working on the Portsmouth School Records Project, indexing the names recorded in class rosters and in minutes of School Board meetings.

I have pursued this work-at-home project from the comfort of my own study, sitting at my computer, opening the relevant documents,

and entering the data—each name that appears on any page—onto a spreadsheet. At first glance these pages seem challenging to decipher, however the florid penmanship becomes more transparent and easy to read with familiarity.

A real advantage of working from photographs on a computer is that each page can be greatly magnified as needed, which helps decode some idiosyncrasies of the handwriting. It's also a plus that you needn't worry that your hands are sweaty or that you might sneeze. And although I do miss the thrill of actually touching an object that was touched by people from another era, the tangible quality of the photographed pages helps to create that illusion. You can see the discoloration, the blotches, the chance mark.

So far, I have worked on two types of documents. The class rosters are basically monthly lists of "pupils" in

each class; my task is to index their names. One might suggest that it's about as interesting as transcribing the names in a telephone book (remember those historical artifacts!)—to which I would reply—but I always liked to read telephone books!

I find it suggestive that names in our current landscape such as Lighton, Penhallow, Odiorne (sometimes spelled Odion or Odione) are found in 1856 or 1865. Or, conversely, I'm curious about the names that seem atypical: Israel (were they Jewish?) Myers (German immigrants?)

Even the given names are intriguing. When I taught at UNH there were some years when about a third of the young women in any class might have been called Jennifer. It seems to me that Lizzie might well have been the equivalent name in 1856.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Arcana DICK ADAMS
John Langdon Elwyn
A RARA AVIS

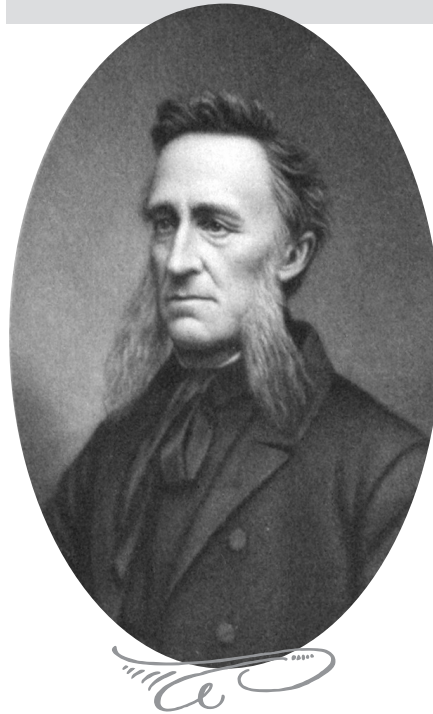
In the course of its 203 years of existence, about 1,500 individuals have been Proprietors of the Athenaeum. Many have distinguished themselves in a wide array of pursuits and accomplishments, but it's likely that none have surpassed or even come close to being as unique as John Langdon Elwyn, owner of share number 67 from 1838 until his death in 1876.

It is tempting to focus on his "marked peculiarities bordering on eccentricities," as one contemporary noted, but to do so is to overlook his astonishing intellectual gifts. A polyglot of the first order, he spoke five modern European languages fluently and could read with facility Sanskrit, Hebrew, Arabic, Farsi, Russian, Latin, and Greek.

Those who knew him—and there's little question that he generally preferred the company of his prodigious mind to those of others—often marveled at his vast store of knowledge.

Elwyn was born in 1801, the son of John Langdon's only daughter. He graduated from Harvard at the age of 17 and briefly studied law with Jeremiah Mason and Daniel Webster. Finding the law uninteresting, he soon abandoned it and, being financially secure owing to inheritance, devoted the rest of his life to scholarship.

In many respects he was like Henry David Thoreau. Both were prodigious walkers: Elwyn routinely walked to Boston in a day. He made several trips on foot to Philadelphia to visit his brother, and once he walked to Missouri in five months.



John Langdon Elwyn owned share number 67 from 1838 to 1876.

Like Thoreau, he had little use for the trappings of the Industrial Revolution. Both despised the railroad: Thoreau said it conveyed a false notion of progress that "depleted the body and mind," while Elwyn said "New Hampshire was a beautiful park which modern improvement has ruined."

A lifelong bachelor, he spent many hours in the Athenaeum's Library Room absorbed in study. One contemporary observed "it was amazing to hear him talk of persons six or seven generations distant. He seemed to have had actual

personal acquaintance with them. He knew something of everything and everything of something." Another said, "if his mind seemed sometimes unbalanced it was from the weight of its own knowledge."

Unlike Thoreau, Elwyn was not a lucid nor prolific writer. He produced self-published tracts from time to time—several of his pamphlets are in the Athenaeum's collection—but for the most part they are unreadable, filled with obscure references and random snippets from the many languages at his command.

Elwyn's photograph has hung for at least 120 years in the room he frequented for so many years. The image conveys the essence of his being better than words can do. Stern in mien, he looks old-fashioned even for the period. His long, feathery side whiskers were years out of fashion, as was the top hat he favored and coat of ancient style that made him readily identifiable in his regular 20-mile walks about Portsmouth and its environs.

Qualities like "jovial" and "gregarious" do not spring to mind when reading descriptions of Elwyn, but the Rev. James DeNormandie's tribute shortly after Elwyn's death makes it clear that for those who made the effort, Elwyn was a person well worth getting to know and understand.

DeNormandie said . . . "[he was] a remarkable character, such as we are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

WELCOME TO THE ATHENAEUM

TOM HARDIMAN

Welcome to the following new Proprietors and Subscribers:

CHARLES ABIZAID works in biotech marketing, sales, and marketing and has a long interest in maritime history and whaling. He lives in Stratham with his wife, Susan, and two children.

JASON T. BREWSTER is the national accounts manager at NESC and is interested in history. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Trisha, and two children.

JOHN S. CHAMBERLAIN is a computer scientist and lifelong book collector interested in history. He lives in Newington.

DR. JAMES W. DEAN, JR. is the President of the University of New Hampshire and is interested in supporting local culture. He lives in Durham with his wife, Janet, and two daughters.

CHRISTOPHER FISCHER is an attorney interested in supporting the community and historic preservation. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Saegar.

JODY HOFFER GITTELL is professor of management at Brandeis University. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Ross, and two children.

JEAN KANE is a commercial real estate broker who is interested in

preserving the history of Portsmouth, where she lives with husband, Joseph.

ERIN KELLY is a fire lieutenant and EMS provider in New Castle. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife and two children.

SUSAN KINDSTEDT is the archivist at the Athenaeum and has cataloged many of our major manuscript collections, including the Kimball family collection and the North Church collection. She lives in Rye with her husband, Jason, and three children.

BRIAN W. J. LEMAY is the executive director of the Portsmouth Historical Society. He currently lives in Needham with his wife, Marian, and is endorsed by Richard Candee, Robert Chase, and Ellen Fineberg.

DIANE SMITH MANSON is a retired attorney in Portsmouth, where she lives with her husband, Thomas, and three children.

JOSEPH T. PORTER is a banker and retired CIO of Enterprise National Bank. He and his husband, Carter, live in Jacksonville, Florida, but often come to Portsmouth where Joe has family roots.

STEPHEN M. POUNDS is retired from Computer Services Corporation and is interested in music, boating, art, history, and genealogy. He lives in Kittery Point with his wife, Katharine.

CHRISTOPHER HALL ROBERTS is an award-winning investigative journalist with broad interests in history, politics, and culture. He lives in Brooklyn.

JOHN K. TABOR JR is recently retired as the president and publisher of Seacoast Media Group. John and his wife, Betsy, live in Portsmouth.

E. WILLIAM TRUSLOW is a commercial photographer in Portsmouth who enjoys hiking, cycling, and travel. He lives in Rye with his wife, Danna.

BRUCE L. VALLEY was the founder and CEO of GlobeNet Aerospace Corp and is the author of three books. He lives in Rye.

ANNE S. WEIDMAN is director of business development and community engagement for JSA Architects. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Mark, and two children.

SAMUEL WINEBAUM, son of Sumner Winebaum, lives in Rye and is an entrepreneur and the founder/editor of roadtrailrun.com.

KEN H. WOLF is the owner of Portsmouth Soap Company and is very interested in local history. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Lauren.





Susan Kress Hamilton, *Still Life for Suzanne*,
oil on canvas, 20 x 10 inches

Share Your Creative Work

SANDRA RUX

The Proprietors' Art Show will not be able to take place in the Randall Gallery this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, you can still share your creative work with the Athenaeum community.

We will feature work by one or two Proprietors/Subscribers in the weekly Athenaeum update online from the week of November 8 through the week of December 28.

Criteria for the work submitted will be the same as for the Proprietors'

Art Show—painting, photography, fiber, sculpture, woodworking or other creations are all welcome.

To submit an entry, you need to take a photo of your work and provide a description (media, size, title and your name, plus a few words about the piece if desired). Email both your photo and text to sandrarux@comcast.net. This will be a first-come, first-published event. Those wishing more information can email sandrarux@comcast.net or call 203-654-0552.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The Joy of Docs....

Martha and Ellen. Then there were also Elvira, Sophronia and Aminia.

Collecting names from the minutes of the Board of Instruction is both more challenging and more interesting. One has to read the minutes and search for the names, but that process provides a wormhole into 19th-century life.

Here, too, the names carry into the present: Clough, Sise, Gardner. Some schools still exist, albeit transformed: the Haven School, the Franklin School, the school at Gravelly Ridge.

The school board, mostly men but also a few women, met about once a month, continuing meetings when

necessary. They convened at 7:30 or 8 p.m. and I find myself asking: Where did they meet? How did they manage the lighting? What did they do about supper?

They were responsible for overseeing the functioning of the various schools within the city, discussing the hiring and firing of teachers, the use of various texts, issues relating to curriculum. In one case a parent complains that his son has been treated too harshly but the committee exonerates the master and says that he was given the specific task of bringing order to a disorderly school. In another they consider whether or not students from Newington should pay tuition.

I love doing this work. The very process of interacting with these pages pulls you into a world from over a hundred years ago. On the one hand it offers a peaceful escape from the many pressures of the present world. But it also brings that past into our present. Like looking at a photograph, peeking into the daily lives that played out in this very spot more than a century ago provides a thrilling sense of continuity with the past.

MARA WITZLING is a Proprietor and a volunteer with the Portsmouth School Records Project, helping to index the names recorded in class rosters and School Board meeting minutes.

NEWS ABOUT OUR

RESEARCH LIBRARIANS

In September, Research Librarian Katy Sternberger became a Certified Archivist after demonstrating archival work experience and sitting for a three-hour exam, which was conducted online for the first time this year.

In addition, she earned her Digital Archives Specialist certificate from the Society of American Archivists after completing nine courses over two years and passing a comprehensive exam.

Research Librarian Carolyn Marvin's latest project is looking into Gov. John Wentworth's "other" family, the offspring and ancestors of his affair with a black female servant who was his mistress in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after the royal governor fled Portsmouth in 1775.

"It's research that came about as the result of a query by one such ancestor in Canada," Marvin said. "Very interesting!"

IN MEMORIAM

Due to the pandemic this year, there will be no Memorial Concert for Proprietors who passed during 2019. To celebrate their lives, Performance Committee Chairman Bill Wieting assembled an online pictorial and written tribute to:

Nancy Reynolds Beck, *Share 294*

Mark Connolly, *Share 306*

Gerald "Jerry" Kelly, *Share 253*

Michael Kenslea, *Share 194*

Elizabeth "Betty" Boynton Larsen, *Share 46*

Joan Lockhart, *Share 33*

William W. Seaward, *Share 145*

Clinton Hoxsie Springer, *Share 293*

Sumner Winebaum, *Share 198*

Joyce Reopel Zabarsky, *Share 118*

Carl L. Crossman, *formerly Share 214*

Morris "Bud" Foye III, *formerly Share 35*

"Instead of reading the obituaries of our deceased friends, we here present a collection of the stories of their lives and careers," Wieting said in the introduction to the online memorial. "As usual, the lives of our Proprietors are remarkable and exemplary for their longevity, creativity and zest for life, eminently worth remembering and emulating."

To see the tribute, go to:

<https://portsmouthathenaeum.org/proprietors-we-lost-in-2019/>



UNREST IN THE POST OFFICE!

CECILIA PAQUETTE

The Athenaeum is currently digitizing materials from the expansive collection of the John Langdon Papers, 1761–1817. John Langdon was New Hampshire's second governor, in addition to being a naval merchant, a state senator, a delegate of the Constitutional Convention, a signatory of the U.S. Constitution, and the nation's first president pro tempore of the Senate.

Considered a Founding Father of the United States, Langdon enjoyed friendships with many historical political figures, as evidenced by the significant amount of correspondence he received, now housed at the Athenaeum.

Throughout our nation's formative years, Langdon was an esteemed confidant of not one, but two postmasters general: Ebenezer Hazard and Gideon Granger. In fact, the Langdon Papers prove that unrest within the post office is hardly a new issue, especially amid a reorganization of the system in place. Intrigue abounds as Hazard and Granger seek Langdon's help.

Ebenezer Hazard, a publisher and businessman, held the office of postmaster general from 1782-1789 and revolutionized postal transit by eliminating the horse and rider courier system in favor of stagecoaches, greatly increasing capacity.

Much of Hazard's early correspondence with Langdon took place

during the Revolutionary War and expressed a desire for a postal system that would not allow any accidental exposure of any "inimical intelligence," referring to the enemy as a "Lott of Rascals." In a letter dated May 4, 1775, Hazard implored Langdon to support his appointment as postmaster general rather than let Congress take the post office "into their own Hands."

Years later, Gideon Granger—the longest-serving postmaster general to date, in office from 1801-1814—continuously sent correspondence to Langdon regarding the removals and resignations of several postmasters throughout New Hampshire.

While begging Langdon's help in finding suitable persons to appoint as postmasters, Granger cites many of New Hampshire's oldest towns, including Chester, Dover, Epping, Durham, and Claremont.

Granger's ideal candidates exclude newspaper printers—like Hazard—and tavern keepers, or anyone else who could personally benefit from their position in the post office, and thus abuse their power.

Editor's Note: Cecilia Paquette recently earned her master's degree in history from the University of New Hampshire. She completed an internship at the Athenaeum this summer and fall, transcribing the letters of Ebenezer Hazard and Gideon Granger.



Cecilia Paquette completed an internship at the Athenaeum this summer and fall, transcribing the letters of Ebenezer Hazard and Gideon Granger.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4
Arcana: John Langdon Elwyn

hardly likely to see again. Of vast learning, of stern integrity, of rough ways sometimes covering a tender spirit and the refinement of a gentleman—a man to be respected and esteemed if only known..."

Elwyn is buried in a simple plot on the ancient Langdon property off Elwyn Road, now in the hands of the Urban Forestry Center. Prior to his death he had conveyed to the city of Portsmouth five acres of land near the South Mill Pond. In 1876 that land was made a park. In compliance with his wishes the park was not named after him, as originally proposed, but after his grandfather, John Langdon, the celebrated patriot whose support was a key factor in the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

MEMBER MILESTONES

DOUG AYKROYD

The year 2020 has been most unusual in so many respects that it is difficult to think of things that have not been affected by the pandemic. But we find at least one aspect of the Athenaeum that goes along unchanged, and that is the large number of Proprietors who continue, year after year, to make our organization such a wonderful thing to be a part of.

So we send our congratulations to the following Proprietors who are celebrating their long association with the Portsmouth Athenaeum in 2020. Perhaps we should have a picnic next summer to salute them.

HALF-CENTURY PROPRIETORS

Frank L. Dennett, Share 39;
James Leo Garvin, Share 91.

40-YEAR PROPRIETORS

Stephen Robert Alie, Share 184;
Sherman Pridham, Share 26;
Joan S. Waldron, Share 60;
George M. Young Jr., Share 178.

35-YEAR PROPRIETORS

Hon. Martha Fuller Clark, Share 19;
Kevin G. Lafond, Share 181;
Charles A. Tarbell, Share 21.

30-YEAR PROPRIETORS

Hollis Brodrick, Share 166;
John Udaloy, Share 84.

25-YEAR PROPRIETORS

Sara Delano, Share 208;
Robert M. Snover, Share 309;
William V. Wagner, Share 308;
Marcy Lyn Weeks, Share 303;
Ursula S. Wright, Share 310;
Susan L. Zuckert, Share 304;
Anthony J. Sarni, Share 183;
Frances A. Lord, Share 271;
Elinor Lamson, Share 122.

20-YEAR PROPRIETORS

Rose Eppard, Share 40;
Thomas M. Hardiman Jr., Share 61;
Susan Orth Kaufmann, Share 341;
Bradley M. Lown, Share 348;
Barbara Kinney Sweet, Share 114;
D. Bruce Montgomery, Share 324;
Lee N. Roberts, Share 268;
Jan Bamberger, Share 345;
Ruthanne Chadwick Rogers, Share 249;
Jacinthe Levesque Grote, Share 138.

15-YEAR PROPRIETORS

Laurie L. Chandler, Share 375;
Dr. John G. Hopkins, Share 141;
Michael R. Dater, Share 263;
Hon. Judith Elizabeth Day, Share 65;

Dr. David W. Ellis, Share 171;
Kinley Gregg, Share 261;
Angelynne Koromilas Hinson, Share 238;

Fran Mallon, Share 269;
Michael M. Murray, Share 343;
Larry Gordon Benedict, Share 48;
Juliana Cardone, Share 25;
Marcia Jebb, Share 23;
Amy Katherine Sterndale, Share 267;
Jonathan M. Wyckoff, Share 78.

10-YEAR PROPRIETORS

Clifton L. Hodgdon, Share 173;
Faith Miller, Share 98;
Alexander Warrick, Share 52;
Lorn Alan Buxton, Share 381;
Dr. Kenneth Howard Cohen, Share 232;
Joyce Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Share 102;
William Cushman Hazen, Share 335;
Neil Charles Herring, Share 383;
Tara Terese Raiselis, Share 113;
Jessica Carol Ritzo, Share 301;
Stephen Hall Roberts, Share 13;
Barney A. Share, Share 384;
Linda Carol Cheatham, Share 186;
Michael Joseph Griffin, Share 288;
Michael Hume McAndrew, Share 273;
Kathy Richards, Share 221.



A view of the traffic near the Memorial Bridge in the 1950s. The sign on the New Hampshire Electric Co. building states "You Can't Beat Electric Heat." Photo by Douglas Armsden.



A view of Pleasant Street in Portsmouth when it appeared as a two-way street during the early 1950s. Photo by Douglas Armsden.

To archive 2,000 negatives takes about \$550 in archival negative sleeves, envelopes and storage boxes. "We have had a number of donations to support the project, from \$25 to \$1000 and more," Chase said. He added: "I personally think the photography collection is one of the most important assets of the Athenaeum."

Armsden's index card records of his commercial work were transcribed by volunteers last year and put into a Word document used to search for images. The pandemic has affected the timeline for processing the collection, Smith said, noting that in-person events like last November's Transcribe-a-thon won't be possible for some time.

Still, the work continues. Proprietor Richard Candee has created an inventory of Armsden's work in "New Hampshire Profiles" and "New Hampshire Troubadour" magazines.

Anyone who would like more information about this project, or to make a donation, can contact jsmith@portsmouthathenaeum.org

Proprietor Bob Chase works on the Armsden collection. Photo by James Smith.



Virtual EVENTS

at the Portsmouth Athenæum

FALL/WINTER 2020-2021

The Athenaeum has partnered with some of our sister libraries to offer virtual programs on the Zoom platform. To register for any of the events, email info@portsmouthathenaeum.org or follow our weekly email newsletter to find programs still being planned.

OCTOBER 27, Tuesday, 4 p.m.

A virtual Athenaeum tea for new members. Join in to meet the talented people who have recently signed on as Proprietors and Subscribers.

OCTOBER 29, Thursday, 7 p.m.

The Athenaeum in partnership with Portsmouth Public Library presents “Votes for Women” with Liz Tentarelli. The campaign for women’s right to vote was a long one, from the 1848 Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y., to ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Who were the key players in New Hampshire and the nation? What issues and obstacles did they face? Using historic photos and documents, Liz Tentarelli will guide us on the journey. Liz is president of the League of Women Voters NH, a non-partisan organization that is the direct descendant of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

NOVEMBER 10, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

The Athenaeum presents Lou Salome speaking about his new book: *Thoreau, The Kid, and Mr. Lou; Book Notes of a Foreign Correspondent*. Athenaeum Proprietor Lou Salome lived for a year in the New Hampshire woods where he wrote the acclaimed *Violence, Veils and Bloodlines: Reporting from War Zones*. He kept a daily journal detailing his life in the woods, a year when dreams, notebooks, a card game called cribbage, baseball and the natural world played vital roles in

helping to banish his demons. Those thick journals are the main, but not only, source of this remarkable book on the transformative powers of words and memory.

NOVEMBER 13, Friday, 5:30 p.m.

The Providence Athenaeum and the Membership Libraries Group present U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown. His new book, *Desk 88: Eight Progressive Senators Who Changed America* profiles some of the previous occupants of Senate desk number 88, which Brown has held since 2006.

DECEMBER 9, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

The Portsmouth Athenaeum and the Membership Libraries Group present Carolyn Eastman, associate professor in the History Department at Virginia Commonwealth University, speaking about her new book, *The Strange Genius of Mr. O: The World of the United States’ First Forgotten Celebrity*. It tells the story of the early United States through the career of an extraordinary and eccentric performer, James Ogilvie, who became a household name. Ogilvie destroyed his reputation at one point, regained it a few months later, wound up fighting in the War of 1812, wrote a terrible book, and headed to Great Britain to continue his performances. A former Special Collections Librarian at the Athenaeum, Carolyn is also the author of *A Nation of Speechifiers: Making an American Public After the Revolution*.

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A Thank You! JAMES SMITH

Thank you to Portsmouth Flatbread Pizza and everyone who was able to participate in the Armsden Bake Benefit on September 8.

That evening, the Athenaeum raised \$537, which will go toward purchasing additional archival supplies for the recently acquired Douglas Armsden photograph collection (*see Page 1*). In the weeks leading up to the event, the Athenaeum shared on social media seven posts using images from the Armsden collection. During this campaign, the Athenaeum received an additional \$1,400 in donations for Armsden. Collectively, this brings the annual total to nearly \$2,500 for supplies.

The social media posts cumulatively totaled over 17,000 reaches alone on Facebook. This allowed us not only to educate the public about the invaluable historical and cultural impact of Armsden's work, but also provided an opportunity for the Seacoast community to learn more about the Athenaeum. In addition, we have now passed 1,700 followers on Instagram. As always, we are appreciative of your continued support.